Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~claim 23, wherein said plurality of documents is subject to editing on a document-by-document basis.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2 or 3~~, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before being retrieved from said document edit system.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a tag which is delimited using two selected characters, said tag being used to define an element which is an identified element in the element search portion of the document.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a character pattern consisting of normal text characters in sequence.

7.   (Currently Amended)A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a wild card tag which is defined by a selected character delimited using two selected characters, said wild card tag being used to determine structured layers in the element search portion of the document.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a negation indicator which is defined using a selected character and accompanies an element-defining name, said negation indicator being

used to define an element wherein an element match is not established with a character sequence immediately following said negation indicator.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains an extraction indicator defined using a selected character and accompanying a character sequence, said extraction indicator being used to extract an element from the element search portion of the document if said character sequence matches the element in the element search portion.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a sequence connector defined by a selected character, said sequence connector accompanying two element-defining names at both sides of said sequence connector, said sequence connector specifying, in the element search portion, two elements positioned in the same order of said two element-defining names.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains a hierarchy connector defined by inserting no character between first and second element-defining names, said hierarchy connector being used to determine if an element defined by said first element-defining name involves an element defined by said second element-defining name.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains parentheses involving a plurality of element-defining names that are preferentially processed.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~, wherein said element edit statement contains an AND connector defined using a selected

character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided so as to sandwich said AND connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which forms part of the element search portion and is defined by said first element-defining name, either follows or precedes the element which is defined by said second element-defining name.

14.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, if either of said first or second element-defining names sandwiching said AND connector specifies the corresponding element in the document, a match is established therebetween and the corresponding element is extracted and stored in said edit result storage.

15.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein if a match is established in connection with only one of said first and second element-defining names, the element already stored in said edit result storage is deleted therefrom.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an OR connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided in a manner to sandwich said OR connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which forms part of the element search portion and is specified by either of said first and second element-defining names, is present in the element search portion of the document.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 claim 2, further comprising:

acquiring another element edit statement into said document edit system, said another element edit statement being used to edit the elements which have been extracted.

18.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said another element edit statement comprises another set of document editing instructions which are used for initializing a plurality of variables provided for editing the elements extracted, pre-editing, post-editing, and arranging the elements extracted.

19. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before being retrieved from said document edit system.

20. (New) The method as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 22, wherein said generating step (c) includes generating said resultant document which additionally includes a title heading of elements.

21. (New) The method as recited in claim 23 ~~claim 2~~ wherein said generating step (c) includes generating said resultant document which additionally includes a title heading of elements.

22.   (New) A method of editing a plurality of mark-up language, structured documents and generating a resultant document reflecting the edit results, comprising the steps of:

(a)   acquiring at least a first and a second of mark-up language, structured document in a document edit system;

(b)   extracting at least a first and second element in a first mark-up language document and a third and fourth element in a second mark-up language document using an element edit statement which specifies the first and third elements to be extracted by a first common identifier or tag and specifies the second and fourth elements of by a second

common identifier or tag, wherein the elements are extracted while the relationship of the first and second elements and the third and fourth elements is maintained; and

(c) generating said resultant document, wherein said resultant document includes an arrangement of elements extracted in step (b) such that said first and third elements are arranged together with each being arranged in association with said second and fourth elements respectively.

23. (New) A method of editing a plurality of mark-up language documents each containing a plurality of structured element and generating a resultant document reflecting the edit results, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) acquiring at first and a second of mark-up language structured documents to be edited into a document edit system;

(b) acquiring an element edit statement into said document edit system, said element edit statement comprising a plurality of edit instructions for searching at least a first and second element in the at least first and second mark-up language structured documents;

(c) defining an element search portion, said element search portion containing a plurality of elements in the at least first and second mark-up language structured documents;

(d) implementing match operations between an element defined in said element edit statement and each of the elements in said element search portion of each of said first and second mark-up language structured documents, and ascertaining at least a first and second element of said element search portion of said first mark-up language structured document which matches at least a first and second element defined in said element edit statement, and at least a third and fourth element of said element search portion of said second

mark-up language structured document which matches at least a second element defined in said element edit statement, the matched element being extracted from said at least first and second mark-up language structured document if the matched element is indicated as being extracted, the extracted element being stored in an edit result storage, and said match operations being repeated until completing all the edit instructions in the element edit statement; and

(e) generating said resultant document, wherein said resultant document includes an arrangement of elements extracted in step (d)) such that said first and third elements are arranged together with each being arranged in association with said second and fourth elements respectively.